



Maxwell/Gunter AFB

# Retiree News

News concerning U. S. Military retirees in the Montgomery, AL area



Vol. 01, Issue 2

February 2004 - April 2004

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Retirees this is your newsletter.  
If you have suggestions  
please refer them to the  
Retiree Activities Office 953-6725  
or Marketing 953-7410.



## OMB halts plan to raise retiree drug costs

The plan to increase retiree cost shares for the TRICARE pharmacy benefit and initiate retiree copays for drugs obtained in military hospitals and clinics is off the table - at least temporarily.

This follows a report last week that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was pushing a budget proposal that envisioned significantly increasing retiree cost shares for the

**See Drugs page 2**

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are still needed to support the Retiree Activities Office. If you'd like to volunteer with us, give us a call. The RAO is operated entirely through volunteer support.



Join us for Lunch  
Daily Starting at  
10:30 a.m.!

*Maxwell Officers' Club*

Telephone, 953-7820

*Maxwell Enlisted Club*

Telephone, 953-6878

*The Falcon's Nest*  
Est. 1942

Telephone, 416-4646

## MPF Customer Service Hours

The MPF Customer Service Hours are from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The busiest times are from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

To shorten waiting time, we recommend you visit the MPF between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. or 2:00-3:30 p.m.

## 'Drugs' from page 1

TRICARE pharmacy benefit and initiating retiree copays for drugs obtained in military hospitals and clinics.

Military Officer Association of America officials announced that the OMB has elected to shelve the proposal after strong objections from the Defense Department and a number of military associations. In return, the Pentagon has agreed to study the copay issue, and then make any recommendations on this subject next year for the FY2006 budget. The decision defers any budget action until after the November election, which means any recommended change wouldn't come before October 2005.

## New Tax Center

The Maxwell Tax Center is scheduled to open Feb. 2, 2004. Availability to retirees, the types of returns that can be handled, the location and hours will be posted on the Retiree website and publicized in the base paper within the coming weeks. The AU Law Center POC is Tsgt April Farmer at 953-2786.

## Retiree Activities Website



Let us know what you think and how we can better serve you. Visit our new website at:  
[www.maxwell.af.mil/42abw/rao/](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/42abw/rao/).

# Updating Your Address

After our last newsletter, we received numerous calls from people wanting to update their address. However, the only person who can change your address in your official records is you. The addresses on your Nov 03 newsletters were those given to the RAO by the DFAS system. If it was incorrect, you may not be receiving other documents

important to you. Please contact your local MPF and Finance Customer Service to make address changes, or you can call DFAS at 1-800-538-9552 or commercial at (216) 522-5534/5955 or better yet, enroll in myPay, <https://myPay.dfas.mil>, for quick and easy updates. For DEERS address changes, contact 1-800-368-4416.

## MAXWELL BOWLING CENTER 11TH FRAME SNACK BAR

Open for Lunch Monday - Friday 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### Retiree Bowling Special

1st week of each month!

**Lunch & BOWL**  
Only \$5 (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

*Includes: 2 games, shoes, sandwich of choice, fries and soft drink*

### Don't Miss Glow Bowl

Every Friday 8:00-10:30 p.m. and  
Saturday 5:30-7:30 p.m. and 9:00-11:00 p.m.



### Make plans to attend these upcoming events:

February 14, Scotch Doubles Tournament at 1:30 p.m.  
March 17, Four Leaf Clover Special from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
April 10, Easter Egg Bowling from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## NO TIME for the MALL?

**Shop fast at your ex on AFFES.com!**

You have 24/7/365 access to shopping benefits and over 19,000 items...through your Exchange Online Store at AAFES.com  
Great buys with secure online shopping!

## Also, try CentricMall.com

Military exchange customers save up to 35%  
A variety of retailers and savings you won't find anywhere else!

**Proudly Accepting  
your Military Star card.**





## Smithsonian opens new facility

Military aviators from conflicts as far back as World War II were invited to the "Salute to Military Aviation Veterans" Dec. 9, at the National Air and Space Museum's new Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. The center is located in Chantilly Va., less than 30 miles from the museum's flagship building in Washington.

Examples of air power, both old and new, are on display. Among the 82 aircraft shown are the B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay," the space shuttle Enterprise,

an SR-71 Blackbird, a test model of the Joint Strike Fighter and the Concorde.

The aviation hangar at the heart of the center is nearly 10 stories tall and the length of three football fields. Aircraft are displayed at floor level and suspended from the ceiling at various heights. Visitors can view the collection from the floor or any of several catwalks that crisscross the hangar.

Eventually, the center will house 200 aircraft, 135 space

artifacts and thousands of smaller aviation-related items. Nearly 80 percent of the air and space museum's aircraft will be put on display at the center.



Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

## "Wings of Victory" Air Show

Maxwell AFB will be hosting an Air Show on June 6 & 7. The theme will be WW II and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. Numerous WW II "warbirds" will be on static display as well as giving aerial demonstrations to include the P-40 "Warhawk", P-51C "Mustang", B-25J "Mitchell", and many others. Volunteers are needed to assist with security, concessions and general operations. If you would like to volunteer, contact 42 ABW/XP at 953-7000.





# DFAS works to implement Concurrent Receipt

Concurrent receipt of both retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) disability compensation has become a reality. Signed by President Bush on Nov. 24, 2003, Public Law 108-136 authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the DVA disability offset to retired pay.

This will affect members with non-disability retirements, without regard to years of service. According to information on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) myPay web site, <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.as>, those who retired as a result of a service-related disability are also eligible. These members must have at least 20 years of qualifying service, and in all

cases must be rated at least 50 percent disabled by the DVA.

This legislation also expands the field of eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to include retirees with 20 years who have a combined disability rating of less than 60 percent, but repeals the authority for Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled (SCSD).

The SCSD came about Oct. 1, 1999 under the Fiscal Year DoD Authorization Act which provided special compensation, ranging from \$100 to \$300 a month, to certain severely disabled uniformed services retirees retired under the regular retirement law. SCSD recipients will be the first to see increases

to their retired pay effective Jan. 1, 2004 for the payment dated Feb. 2, 2004.

DFAS is working closely with the DVA to implement this legislation and issue the payments to all eligible retirees as soon as possible. Although full implementation may take several months, payments will include monies that are due retroactive to Jan. 1, 2004. Updates will be posted to the DFAS MyPay website as they become available.



## Most DoD tax statements now posted online

Tax statements are now posted on myPay for Army, Navy, Air Force Reserve, Department of Defense and Department of Energy civilian employees, military annuitants, and military retirees. W-2 and 1099 statements are available for these groups to view and print immediately, allowing them to submit their tax returns quickly. Statements are available at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance call myPay customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

## COE must be completed annually

Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants get two important documents each year: a tax statement and a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). One is used to determine how much tax is owed and the other, the COE, determines if you're going to continue receiving an SBP check each month.

The COE is automatically generated 90 days prior to the annuitants birthday. It must be completed and returned before the annuitant's birthday to avoid any interruption in pay.

If a power of attorney has been added to an annuitant's account, that individual should complete the form, marking the legal representative portion as requested. A marriage certificate is required when the "I married in the past year. . ." box is marked to update the annuitant's account properly.

Upon return of the COE, DFAS processes the document and will either continue, adjust or terminate the annuitant's pay as appropriate.

Forms may be mailed to DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131 or may be faxed to 1-800-982-8459.

## Little pink cards" go away as Guard, Reserve get full time commissary benefits

The signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act granted unlimited shopping privilege for Reserve component members and their families.

Members of the Retired Reserve are included in the extended benefit. These "gray area retirees" were not formerly entitled to unlimited commissary shopping until they reached age 60.

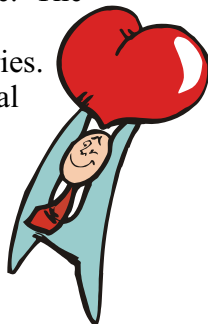
The extended benefit may not apply worldwide. While Reserve personnel not on active duty can enjoy unlimited shopping in the U.S., many overseas installations are impacted by host nation agreements that limit on-base shopping by non-active-duty personnel.

When visiting or living outside the United States Reserve personnel should check with installation authorities about local commissary shopping privileges.



## Healthy Heart Program

The 42d Medical Group rolls out the Healthy at Heart™ program on March 8, 2004. The Healthy at Heart program will help manage key Cardio vascular risk factors -- high cholesterol, high blood pressure and/or diabetes. Members enrolled in the Healthy at Heart program will receive 12 months of continuous disease educational materials and reminders about medication compliance delivered through the mail and accessible through a special Web site. The Healthy at Heart program is provided as a free service to all eligible beneficiaries. Enrollment is simple; stop by the Medical Group on or after March 8, 2004 between the hours of 8-11a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Signs on the first floor will point you in the right direction. POCs: Lt. Col. Daniel, 953-7114 or Capt Tippins, 953-8736.



## Information Tickets & Travel

### Movie Tickets

Rave \$5.00

Carmike \$5.25

O'Neil \$5.00

*Join Us...*

The 4th Saturday of each month  
for Casino Magic trips to Biloxi!

Call ITT at 953-6351

## Ask about our NEW Scuba Diving Trips!

*Don't know how to  
Scuba Dive? Just call the  
Maxwell Community Center  
and enroll in a class!*



## Maxwell Community Center

## Scuba Diving Classes

## Ballroom Dancing Classes



Call 953-7370 for details!

## Some TERA retirees confused by act's provisions

Based on questions by a number of retired members who failed to completely understand the provisions of the Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA), officials have provided a web site offering additional information.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1992, Public Law 102-484, Oct. 23, 1992, under which Congress enacted the Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA), permitted selected military members to retire early and accrue additional military retirements credits if they gained employment with qualifying public or community service organizations.

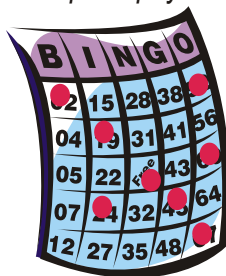
The TERA measure gave each of the Armed Services the 'temporary early retirement authority' (TERA), to offer retirement at 15 years to 20 years of service. It stated that a service member electing early retirement may accrue additional retirement credit if employed in public or community service between the time of retirement and the time the retiree would have attained 20 years of military service. The early retiree will have his or her military retired pay increased at age 62.

According to officials, the public or community service organization employing the retiree must be designated a qualifying organization and be on the DoDs Public and Community Service Organization Registry, which is maintain by the Defense Manpower Data (DMDC). More information and the registry is at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tera/owa/ShowPage?p=index>.

## Maxwell Enlisted Club

# Bingo

We play bingo where  
the prize payouts total over



# \$2,300

**Every Wednesday Night**

**Games start at 6PM**

**Cards go on sale at 5PM.**

*Open to all ranks*

*Free admission to club members*

*Non-club members admission is \$5.00*

## Retired Sampson AFB Personnel

The Sampson AFB Veterans Association, Inc. is searching for all personnel who served or trained at Sampson AFB from 1950-1956. Please contact Chip Phillips as P.O. Box 331 Williamsville, NY 14231 or by e-mail at [Chip34@aol.com](mailto:Chip34@aol.com)

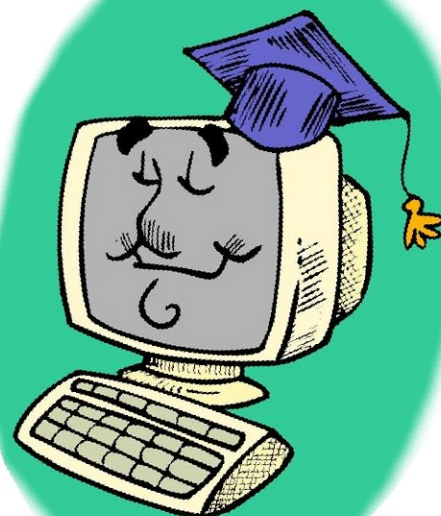
# FREE TO RETIREES

## INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER CLASSES

The next Retiree Introduction to Computer Classes will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March. at 6-7 p.m. in Bldg 941. The classes offer hands on instruction for basic computer skills such as:

- *Simplifying computer language and jargon*
- *Internet and e-mail access*

Class size is limited to 12 students. RSVP at 953-6725.



## Montgomery Retired Military 3rd Annual

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

**July 12-15, 2004**

Registration is July 12 at the Maxwell Officers' Club

Entry Fee: \$180 Tournament and Socials

\$195 Tournament and Socials with guest (limit one guest)

Sponsored by the Montgomery Retired Military Golf Association

Contact the MRMGA for additional information at (334-857-2690)

MRMGA is a non-profit 501c3 organization.

## Vets push to stop divorce courts from dividing retirement pay

A group of divorced veterans met in Arlington, VA to put finishing touches on a federal lawsuit to prevent state divorce courts from dividing their retained/retirement pay. The Veterans group insists that the Constitution forbids a 20 year old federal statute that permits state divorce courts to divide veterans retained/retirement pay with their ex-spouses. The law is the Uniform Services Former Spouses Protection Act. They plan to file the lawsuit in the first quarter of 2004. For more information on the USFSPA lawsuit, go to [www.usfspa-lawsuit.info](http://www.usfspa-lawsuit.info)

Articles appearing in this newsletter may have appeared in newsletters received by the RAO from other military facilities. They have been reprinted for your benefit. Some may have been reworded because we want to give the most current news and information. We would like to thank the other RAOs for sharing their newsletters. We have found each one has information that all retirees need to know.

**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions expressed by writers of this newsletter are their own and should not be construed to

be the official position or policy of DOD, USAF, or Maxwell AFB, AL. The RAO published this newsletter to inform AF retirees and their family members of changes in legislation, defense policies and other matters affecting their military rights, benefits and other obligations. It contains information about Maxwell AFB and the local retiree community. While every effort is made to verify information in this newsletter, the RAO "volunteer" staff cannot guarantee the accuracy of information furnished by outside agencies.

## Winter Rates



**Ends February 29, 2004**

SSgt- Below .....	\$40
TSgt - Major .....	\$48
All Others .....	\$56
Guest Fee .....	\$5

Ask about our winter monthly rental fee,  
To make reservations contact the Maxwell  
Equipment Checkout office at 953-3509.

## Recreational Specials

**50% Off**

trailers at Lake Martin Feb 1-16

**25% Off**

Lawn & Garden equipment in February

**25% Off**

Lawn & Garden equipment in March

**\$7.50**

to rent a bike in March

**25% off**

all camping equipment in April

### Maxwell And Gunter



### SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**1st Friday of each month  
Woodworking Class**

**1st Saturday of each month  
Ceramics and Framing Classes**

For more information please call 953-7370.



# Retiree Special

**Every  
Thursday  
Carts are \$7\***  
for retirees and  
dependents  
\*Does not include tournaments.  
Can not be combined with  
other promotional specials.



42 MSS/CVR Building 804  
50 Lemay Plaza South  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6010

First Class  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit # 700  
Montgomery, AL



Visit our new retiree website at: [www.maxwell.af.mil/42abw/rao/](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/42abw/rao/). Let us know what you think. Call Retiree Activities Office at 334-953-6725 or Marketing & Publicity at 334-953-7410 regarding this newsletter.